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A BREEDING CAGE FOR PARASITES

By J. W. Folsom, Division of Cotton Insect Investigations,
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine,
U. S. Department of Agriculture

After making various kinds of cages, in which to rear the boll-weevil parasite Microbracon mellitor Say, the writer devised the cage shown in the accompanying illustration (fig. 1). It proved to be satisfactory in every way. The body of this cage, resting on sand in a saucer, and covered with a Petri dish, is a paper cylinder, 2 inches high and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, cut from an ice-cream box. On the left side is a hole closed with a cork covered with absorbent cotton, on which food for the parasites is placed—equal parts of honey and distilled water. On the right side is another stoppered hole for the introduction of parasites and cotton squares, the removal of squares, and for other purposes. The parasites were introduced from glass tubes the size of the opening. When these tubes were darkened the insects, going toward the light, went into the cage. This form of cage permitted observation of its inmates with the aid of a binocular magnifier.

For study under higher magnifications, with a binocular microscope, the insects were confined in a cage made of glass tubes (shown in fig. 2), which is a modification of the Doten cage.

Explanation of Illustrations

Figure 1.—Cage for breeding parasites.

Figure 2.—Cage for studying insects under a high-power microscope.

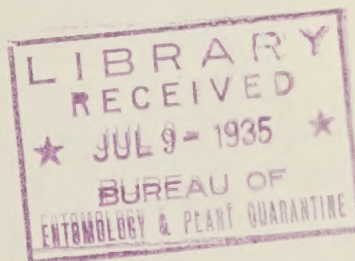




Figure 1.

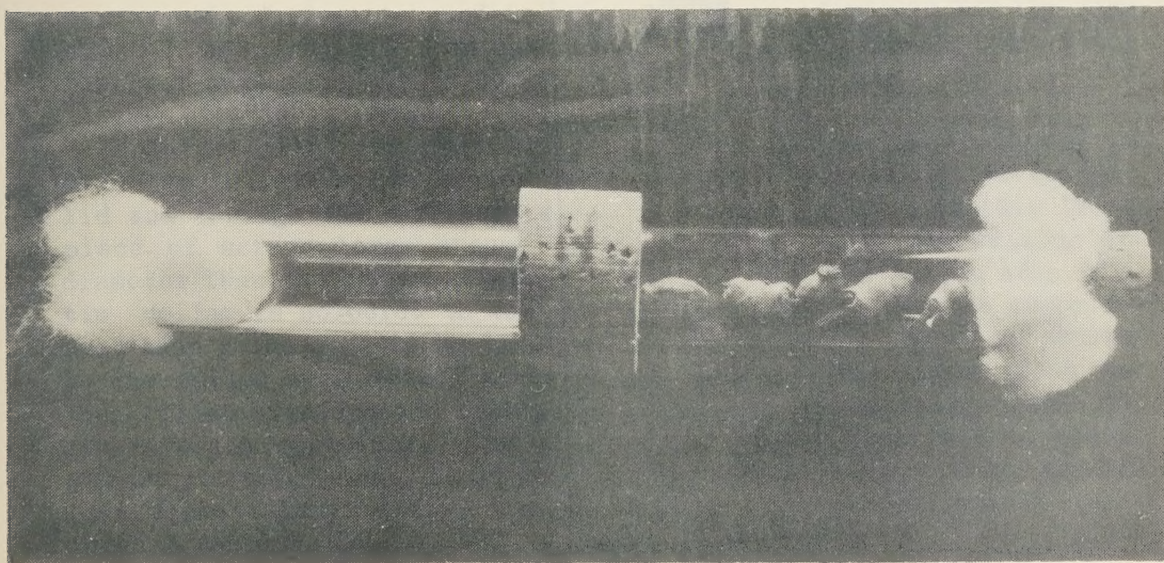


Figure 2.

